

A SWEET SAVOUR OF CHRIST.

2 Cor. 2:12-17

Satan gains ground in a life when unresolved bitterness

Advantage: make gain, defraud, overreach, deceive into accomplishing his purposes.

*Not ignorant...*not blind, unintelligent concerning techniques, schemes, tactics.

Forgiveness: *For your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ.* Mat 18:34

2 Cor 2:12 -13 Troas not new to Paul...

- ◆ Luke joined him
- ◆ Macedonian call
- ◆ Preached long message
- ◆ Titus supposed to meet Paul to give report on Corinthians

A door was opened unto me ...

- ◆ Thirsty people
- ◆ Right timing
- ◆ Perfect location

*I had no rest in my spirit ...*relief, ease, liberty, freedom

Lesson in will of God: Even though tremendous opportunity, if no freedom of spirit-- don't do it! Every open door is not God's

Timing may be wrong... place people...specifics Rom 14:23

Spirit: come into any situation & discern spirit whether right or wrong (Heb.5:14). 1Jn 4:1; Isa 11:2

...causeth us to triumph in Christ: Mental image of Roman victory procession called *Roman Triumph*

If general won... killed at least 5,000 enemy soldiers, & gained new territory for Emperor, then entitled to *Roman Triumph*.

Given golden chariot to ride in & surrounded by officers. Goods & properties seized displayed ...with captives--march ahead of procession.

Parade led to Circus Maximus (Coliseum) where prisoners fighting wild beasts.

Stood out --Roman priest carrying burning incense which fill the air with savor (sweet smell to people).

Captives smell incense-- stench spoke of defeat and their impending death.

Sons of general march behind chariot, sharing victorious moment of glory. Participants

of victory already won

2 Cor 2:14 ... *maketh manifest* (apparent, visible, open, clear, obvious), *the savour* (fragrance, smell, odor,) *of his knowledge by us in every place.*

Jesus Christ claimed spoils of victory---our souls Eph 4:8 Col 2:15

2 Cor 2:15 *For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ,* ... Aroma associated with burnt offerings of Lev 2:12 Smell of burnt sacrifice not visible...had affect on people.

To some, smell sweet, ...spoke of God's grace & forgiveness.

To others, spoke of death & decay... decomposing corpse of animal.

Sweet smelling perfume in nostrils of God--demanded sacrifice made in order for His people to have fellowship with Him.

Mac: *Although a preacher proclaims the gospel to men, it is in reality God who is his audience.*

His faithful gospel ministry causes the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ to be manifest to people, but the fragrance of that gospel ministry ascends to the very throne of God.

2 Cor 2:16 *To the one we are the savour of death unto death.* to lost without Christ, we are fatal, deathly, poisonous fumes; smell of destruction and doom; repulsive *to another the savour of life unto life.* vital fragrance, living & fresh...life-giving perfume.

Sufficient: worthy, competent, fully qualified for task Phil 3:3; Prov 14:26 ; Eph 3:11

2 Cor 2:17 ...*corrupt the word of God* : as hucksters, tavern keepers, making a trade of , peddling God's Word

People tampered with Word of God & watered it down in order to remove its offense. ...wine-hawkers" of the day who watered down the pure vintage to make their deceitful fraudulent profits.

Sincerity: Pure motives, no hidden agenda,

But as of God: God's sent messengers.

In the sight of God: accountable to God

Speak we in Christ: in & through & on behalf of Jesus Christ

SO WHAT?

1. God's will is not always governed by open doors.
2. Christians are triumphant victors
3. We are to be a sweet savour of Christ.
4. We speak clearly and sincerely for Christ.